

## Message Text

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46/52

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /115 W  
----- 016670

R 090950 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1400

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

/ AMCONSUL BIEN HOA 0505

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8138

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ( MRN 8138 VICE 3138)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: RD MINISTER NGUYEN VAN NGAI SPEAKS ON THE POLITICAL  
ASPECTS OF HIS JOB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN A CONVERSATION MAY 8 WITH EMBOFF NEWLY APPOINTED  
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT NGUYEN VAN NGAI DISCUSSED THE  
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF HIS JOB FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIS  
APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN DUE TO HIS CONNECTION WITH THE DEMOCRACY  
PARTY. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO USE THE  
RD CADRE AS A MECHANISM FOR THE PARTY'S EXPANSION.

2. NGAI ADDED THAT THE TWO OTHER PARTIES CURRENTLY ON THE  
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POLITICAL SCENE, THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, WILL NOT BE SMOTHERED. THEY WILL BE GIVEN SCOPE TO ORGANIZE. IN FACT NGAI SAID PRESIDENT THIEU HAS " GIVEN A LOT OF MONEY" TO THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA TO GET THEM STARTED.

3. EXPANDING ON THIS THEME NGAI ACCUSED THESE TWO PARTIES OF INDULGING IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO " BLACKMAIL" IN THEIR APPROACH TO THIEU. THEY DEMAND MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN EFFECT ARE TELLING THE PRESIDENT: EITHER HELP US OR WE WILL DELIBERATELY SLOW DOWN OUR RECRUITMENT EFFORTS. THE THREAT

HERE IS THAT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY MAY BECOME THE ONLY QUALIFIED PARTY, THEREBY LACKENING THIEU AS THE HEAD OF A ONE PARTY SLATE. NGAI CLAIMED THAT THIEU IS AWARE OF THE PROPAGANDA DANGER INVOLVED IN SUCH A RESULT. NGAI EXPRESSED BITTERNESS ABOUT THE USE OF THIS " ADVANTAGE" BY THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA.

4. NGAI IMPLIED THAT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BILL IS A COUNTER IN THIS BARGAINING. HE REFUSED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON WHETHER THIEU WILL SEEK TO RESTORE THE PROVISION MAKING PARTY ENDORSEMENT MANDATORY FOR SLATES. HE SAID THAT THIEU WILL WATCH THE ATTITUDE OF THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO MOVE.

5. COMMENT:

5. THE ONLY INDICATION THAT WE HAVE HAD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE FINANCING IN SOME WAY DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EITHER THE FREEDOM PARTY OR THE SDA WAS AN ALLEGATION MADE RECENTLY BY NGUYEN DINH LUONG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE VNQDD- UNIFIED A COMPONENT OF THE SDA, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD GIVEN TRAN QUOC BUU, CVT CHAIRMAN, SOME 30 MILLION PIASTERS TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE SDA. LUONG' S IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF, IN FACT, BUU HAD RECEIVED THIS SUM, IT HAD BEEN USED NOT FOR THE SDA BUT FOR THE WORKER FARMER PARTY ALONE. LUONG' S ALLEGATION ASIDE, IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE WFP THROUGH ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CVT ENJOYS A STRONGER FINANCIAL POSITION THAN ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY EXCEPT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THERE HAS BEEN AN UNSPOKEN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT WITHIN SDA RANKS ONE RESULT OF WHICH HAS BEEN THE WILLINGNESS OF ITS COMPONENTS TO PUT UP WITH THE SOMETIMES HEAVY HANDED USE OF WFP INFLUENCE IN ALLIANCE RANKS. ( NGUYEN NGOC HUY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT COMMENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY THAT THE POSITION OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR FINANCE WITHIN THE SDA WAS GIVEN TO THE WFP IN RECOGNITION

OF ITS FINANCIAL STRENGTH.)

6. IN GENERAL THE LEADERSHIP PERSONALITIES OF THE COMPONENT ELEMENTS OF THE SDA AND THE FREEDOM PARTY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSIES HAVE EMPHASIZED NOT MONEY BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE ADMINISTRATION AS THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN WHETHER OR NOT THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. THEY NOTE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PARTY CHAPTERS CAN BE INHIBITED OR ENCOURAGED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES HANDLE THE PAPER WORK INVOLVED IN EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP LISTS REQUIRED BY DECREE LAW 060. THEY EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF MANY OF THESE LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH DEMOCRACY PARTY WORK WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PARTIES. THESE CONCERNS NOT FINANCES APPEAR TO DOMINATE THE THINKING OF FREEDOM PARTY AND SDA LEADERS.  
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